

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment and remarks which follow are responsive to the Office Action mailed June 21, 2005 in relation to the above-identified patent application. In that Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-13, 15 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,637,804 ('804) to Crean. Claims 4, 7, 8, 14, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Crean 6,637,804 reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,785,373 to Futrell et al. In addition, Claims 9 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Crean 6,637,804 reference in view of McManus U.S. Patent Application 2002/0057000.

1. **Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement**

As a preliminary matter, Applicant has recently submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement wherein Applicant has added U.S. Patent No. 6,293,612 ('612) to Crean issued on September 25, 2001 into the record.

2. **Antecedent Support for Amendment**

By this response, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of his invention. More particularly, Claim 1 has been amended to describe at least one device requiring a fluid connection for operability as being fixedly attached to the at least one slide of the recreational vehicle. In addition, new dependent Claim 21 has been added into prosecution.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to Claim 1 is fully supported by the originally filed specification in lines 3-4 of paragraph [0014] on page 5, and lines 1-20 of paragraph [0050] on page 14-15. Therefore, no new matter has been added by the amendment made to Claim 1, and entry of the amendment is respectfully solicited.

3. **The Crean '804 Reference Does Not Teach or Suggest a Recreational Vehicle Comprising One or More Slide Outs Extending from the Cab to the Back Wall.**

As is discussed in detail below, Applicant respectfully asserts that the Crean '804 reference does not teach, suggest, or show a recreational vehicle comprising one or more slide outs moveably attached to the chassis and extending from the cab to the back wall.

In independent Claim 1, the slide out is described as being moveably attached to the chassis and extending from the cab to the back wall. Independent Claim 12 recites a pair of

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slide outs moveably attached to the chassis and extending from the cab to the back wall. The Crean '804 reference does not teach or suggest any slide out extending from the cab to the back wall, nor does there appear to be any language within the Crean '804 reference indicating that any slide out described therein may be modified to extend from the cab to the back wall. In this regard, Figure 2A of the Crean '804 reference, reproduced below, shows that the slide out 112 does not extend all the way to the back wall. Rather, the slide out 112 extends along approximately half of the length of the side wall, as opposed to extending all the way from the cab to the back wall.

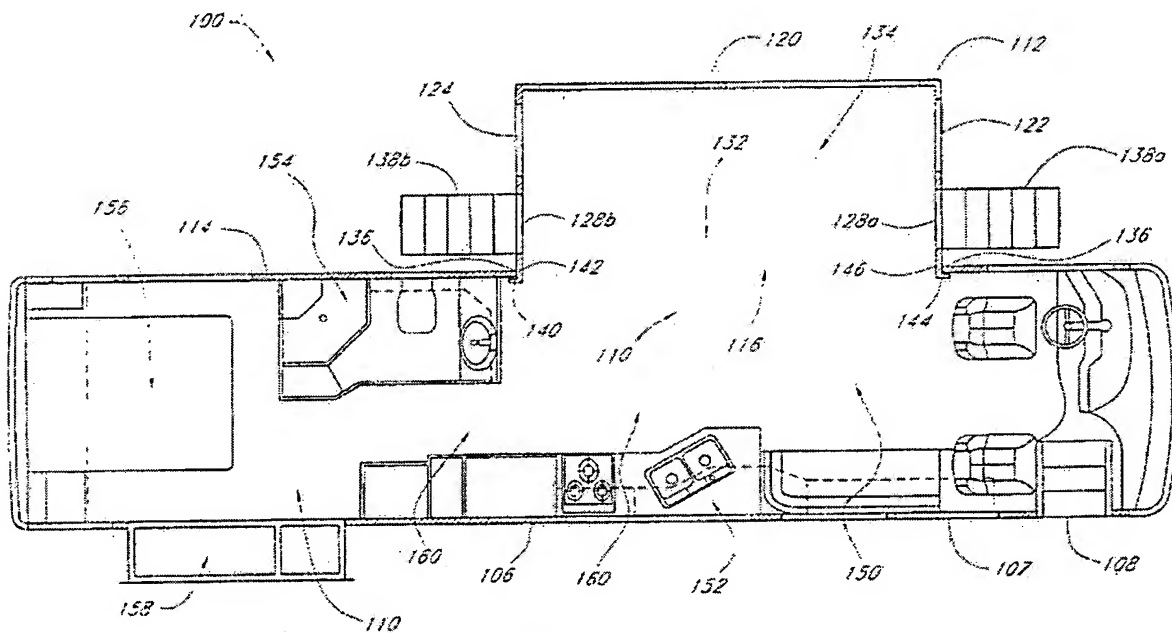


FIG. 2A

On the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 12 are not anticipated by the Crean '804 reference and are in condition for allowance, as are Claims 2-11 and 13-21 as being dependent on respective allowable base claims.

4. **The Crean '612 Reference Does Not Teach or Suggest a Recreational Vehicle Comprising at Least One Device Requiring a Fluid Connection for Operability Fixedly Attached to at Least One Slide Out, or a Pair of Slide Outs Which Each Extend from the Cab to the Back Wall.**

As is discussed in detail below, Applicant respectfully asserts that the Crean '612 reference, made of record in the recently filed Supplemental Information Disclosure

Statement, does not teach, suggest or show a recreational vehicle comprising at least one device requiring a fluid connection for operability fixedly attached to at least one slide out which extends from the cab to the back wall, or comprising a pair of slide outs which each extend from the cab to the back wall.

Applicant believes that a brief review of the Crean ‘612 reference would be useful at this juncture. The Crean ‘612 reference teaches “an exterior slide-out assembly 112a...attached to a first side wall 114a of the main housing 106a and extended from an opening 116a of the main housing 106a.” (Crean ‘612, col. 5, lines 61-64). In addition, the Crean ‘612 reference teaches that certain fixtures or appliances are attached to a fixed wall and not to a slide out. The following language and Figure 2B from the Crean ‘612 reference, reproduced below, demonstrate that the fixtures and appliances requiring plumbing are attached to a fixed wall of the recreational vehicle.

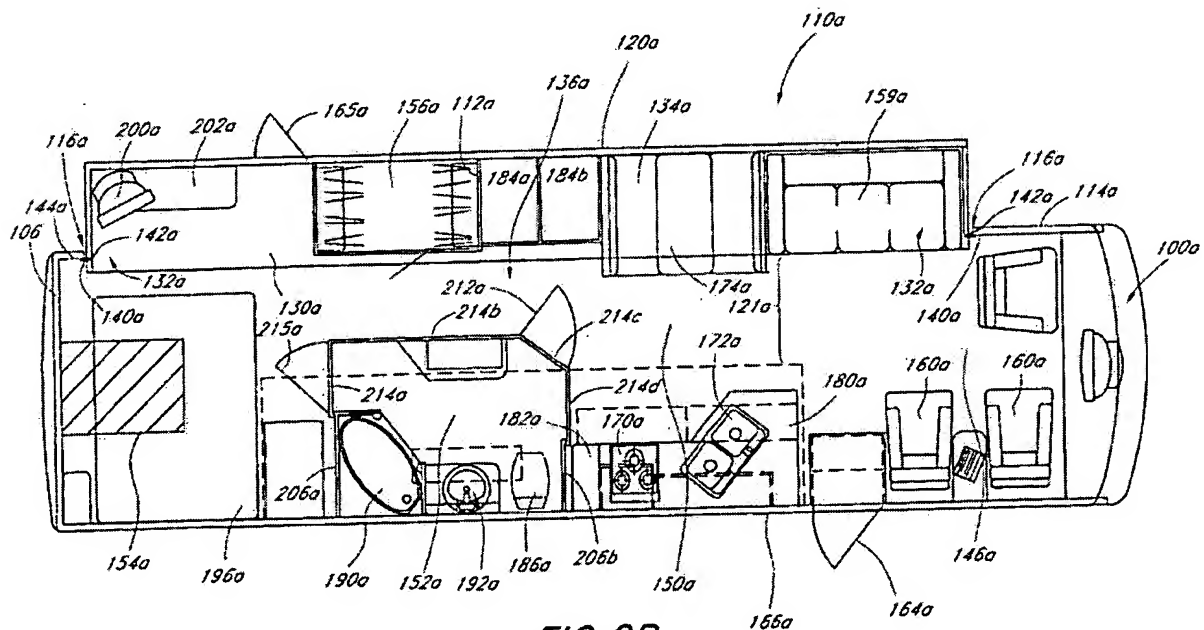


FIG. 2B

[A]djacent the living room area is the kitchen area 150a which includes a kitchen counter 180a, a stove 170a, a food pantry 182a, a refrigerator 184a, a kitchen sink 172a, and a set of dining furniture 174a. In this embodiment, most of the above described kitchen appliances are generally positioned adjacent the second side wall 166a of the main housing 106a. (column 7, lines 45 – 51)

Advantageously, in this embodiment, the deployment of the exterior slide-out assembly 112a will not displace the bathroom fixtures, kitchen appliances, and the related plumbing assembly as the fixtures and appliances requiring plumbing are preferably placed against the second side wall 166a of the main housing 106a so as to be unaffected by the deployment of the slide-out assembly 112a. (column 8, lines 21-28)

In view of the explicit language of the aforementioned passages, Applicant respectfully submits that the Crean '612 reference teaches away from a recreational vehicle comprising at least one device requiring a fluid connection for operability fixedly attached to at least one slide out as recited in amended independent Claim 1. In this regard, The Crean '612 reference specifically states that "the deployment of the exterior slide-out assembly 112a will not displace the bathroom fixtures, kitchen appliances, and the related plumbing assembly" and that all devices requiring a fluid connection for operability "are preferably placed against the second side wall 166a...so as to be unaffected by the deployment of the slide-out assembly 112a." Therefore, the Crean '612 reference does not teach, suggest or show devices requiring a fluid connection for operability fixedly attached to at least one slide out.

For the same reasons discussed in relation to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the Crean '612 reference also teaches away from a recreational vehicle comprising a pair of slide outs attached to the chassis and extending from the cab to the back wall as recited in independent Claim 12. Since the explicit teaching of the Crean '612 reference is that appliances or fixtures requiring plumbing or piping are attached the fixed second side wall 166a opposite the slide out assembly 112a, there would simply be no motivation to modify Crean '612 to include an opposed pair of slide outs.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 12 are also not anticipated by the Crean '612 reference and are in condition for allowance, as are Claims 2-11 and 13-21 as being dependent on respective allowable base claims.

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6. **Conclusion**

On the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the stated grounds of rejection have been overcome, and that Claims 1-21 are now in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

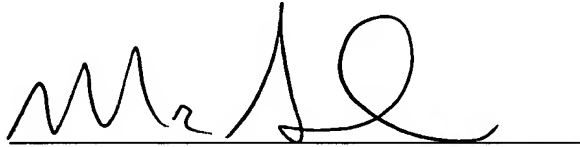
Should the Examiner have any suggestions for expediting allowance of the Application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/27/05

By:



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